

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Claims 10 and 17 are allowed and claims 5-9, 13 and 15-16 are objected to.

Claims 1-4, 11-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C§102(e) as anticipated by Moriwaki et al. (US 6,507,584) (Moriwaki)..

The Office Action is confusing with regard to the rejected claims since claims 6 and 13 are listed as allowable, then claims dependent from these claims are rejected.

It is respectfully requested the finality of the Office Action be withdrawn since applicant cannot prepare an appropriate response because it is unclear as to the status of the claims and how certain dependent claims can be rejected.

Claims 5, 6 and 13 have been amended to independent form. Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6 and claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 13.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention. The amended claims clarify the feature that the packet switch receives input packets which are scheduled and the scheduled packets are distributed in an order as received, independent of destination and switched without buffers for avoiding packet confliction to the same destination, and output in an arrival order.

In other words the packet switch of the present claimed invention receives prescheduled packets as inputs and switches the packets respectively in an order as received and unaffected by the associated destination.

Claim 1

In the Office Action on page 2 starting from line 6, under Item 2 it is stated "Examiner doesn't disagree with above statement ... However, the Examiner notes that the above

description still reads on the claims given reasonable but broad interpretation in view of applicant's specification..."

As previously pointed out applicant's distribution unit is compared to the cell distributor 20-n of Moriwaki.

However col. 6, lines 63-67 describes the ATM cells are read from cell buffer 23 by use of the RA 27. Col. 6, lines 47-62 describes:

"To generate the read address (RA) of the cell buffer 23, the output port information selected by the queue selector 243 is input into the RA generator 241. In the RA generator 241, the ATM cell read instructions for the queuing buffers 23-1 to 23-N are generated based on the number specified from distributive number register 244. More particular, the RA generator 241 generates RA 27 to read ATM cells from one of the queuing-buffers 23-1 to 23-N that corresponds to an output port based on the output of the queue selector 243." (Emphasis added).

"The value of the cell counter 242 for all output ports is input into queue selector 243 so that the queue selector 243 selects one of the output ports having the most ATM cells directed thereto." Col. 5, lines 43-46.

This is different from the claimed invention where: a distributing unit sequentially distributing the input packets to a plurality of paths in an arrival order, independent of destination in units of packets and the switch unit switching the packets ... without buffers for avoiding packet confliction to the same destination, and outputting the packets in an arrival order."

Moriwaki is different from the claimed invention because Moriwaki reads from the queuing buffers based on the queue selector 243. In contrast applicant claims a switch unit switching the packets input from said distributing unit via the plurality of paths without buffers

for avoiding packet confliction to the same destination, and outputting the packets in an arrival order.

In summary Moriwaki only describes the distributors 20-n having a cell buffer 23 and distributing cells to ATM SW input ports in the order determined by RA and distributing the same destination packets to the same output line among the ATM switch ports 41-1 to 41-4 sequentially. In other words, RA collects packets of which the destinations are the same and instruct the cell buffer, after changing the order of packets for outputting them to the same destination packets at once.

Claim 2

Dependent claim 2 describes multiplexing packets associated with the plurality of input highways to the same port into fixed ordered slots. In the Office Action Fig. 4 and col. 6, lines 63-67 of Moriwaki are pointed to as anticipating applicant's features.

It is respectfully submitted that Moriwaki does not describe the features of claim 1 and in addition fails to described the fixed ordered slots because Moriwaki describes "[T]he cell distributor 22 adjusts a timing of output cells, each of which have the same destination information." (emphasis added, col. 6, lines 66-67).

It is submitted that Fig. 4 and col. 6, lines 63-67 in Moriwaki are only concerned with assembling respective input highway cells based on associated destinations as instructed by RA 27 and multiplexing those associated with the same destination by 27.

Claim 3

Claim 3 includes the features of claim 1 and in addition includes a configuration in which the switch is, further logically divided into a plurality of switch planes and operated on a same

one circuit, in which the number of switch planes is set to be correspondent to the capacity of the switch.

Claim 4

Claim 4 describes the packet switch device of claim 1 and further provided with highway interfaces (HW-Ifs) associated with respectively different numbers of accommodation lines and in particular, the number of switch units are made to match numbers required by a distributing unit and multiplexing unit, which have a maximum number of accommodated lines.

Claim 11

Applicant is switching input packets, which are already scheduled by sequentially distributing the input packets to a plurality of paths in an arrival order, independent of destination in units of packets and the switching without buffers for avoiding packet confliction to the same destination, and outputting the packets in an arrival order.

In Moriwaki the value of the cell counter 242 for all output ports is input into queue selector 243 so that the queue selector 243 selects one of the output ports having the most ATM cells directed thereto.

This is different from the claimed invention of sequentially distributing input packets to a plurality of paths in an arrival order in units of packets and switching without the buffers as claimed.

It is respectfully submitted the Moriwaki is different from the claimed invention because Moriwaki reads from the queuing buffers based on the queue selector 243.

Claims 12 and 14 depend from claim 11 and include additional distinguishing features. It is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn for at least the foregoing reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian S. Myers
Reg. No. 46,947

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-8703

Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987

Docket No.: FUJO 18.430 (100794-11668)

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